The Indian Poultry Gazette.

Vol. XVIII. (Price Eight Annas.) *July 1930.* *(Registered L-1322) No. 7.*

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EDITORIAL NEWS.

Our leading article this month will be a good guide to the many Poultry Stations now being started in the various provinces. We believe that most of our readers are personally interested in the industry and should encourage their neighbours to take up poultry ,as a supplementary hobby, with the advantage of supplying the table with the daily fresh egg, of good size and quality, instead of having those small desi eggs from the bazaar. To the managers of the poultry stations we would ask to let us have from time to time their reports on the working of the farm.

Knowledge is only gained through the exchange of ideas, and once again we appeal to all to send us any article that may be of help to us all.

Several attempts were received for the monthly competition, and took a lot of time in deciding the winner, but from the article reproduced in this number, we have no doubt that readers will agree with our decision. We hope to receive a good entry for this month's competition.

Mr. Bruen writes that arrangements for the All India are well in hand, but, as is usual, funds are very short. Last year we had a very good response to our appeal for donations towards the show funds, may we again repeat this in order that every exhibitor may be catered for.

Both Messrs. Beck and Foden have sent in a letter for consideration regarding the question of awards at the shows. We still require more facts before we place this before the General Committee. In order that the schedules for the forthcoming shows may be completed, may be anticipate any further remarks, so that there will be no further necessity for a change.

The Feathered World Annual for 1930 has been received and we have a dozen copies left for sale. This publication seems to grow out of recognition every year, and should find a ready place in every poultry-keepers library. There are also still a few copies of our first Club and Gazette year book, which has been highly spoken of by the English Poultry Press.

We have received only one name to relieve us of our position in November as Hon. Editor of this publication. Should there be any other persons who are willing to give up their spare time to this labour of love, we shall be very pleased to put the names before the Committee for approval. It is with regret that we shall have to cease in this capacity, but the call of duty has taken up all the hours that we have been able to give in the cause of the industry.

HOW THE POULTRY INDUSTRY SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.

(By "Progress").

Direction of Development.—The experience of other countries has shown that the Poultry Industry must be regarded as divided into four different branches, namely :—

(1) Household flocks.

(2) Supplemental and in association with farming.

(3) As a specialised business, and

(4) Breeding farms.

whilst of these there are many sub-divisions, it is evident that the lines of extension will be in the above directions.

(1) Household Flocks.—One of the most marked tendencies under modern conditions in commercial and industrial countries is for those engaged in pursuit of that nature to depend upon purchased food supplies, which must continue in so far as the greater proportion of human nutrition is concerned. Where that is the case it leads to a considerable reduction in certain directions, of which poultry and vegetables are laeding examples. During recent years there has been a reaction towards what was formerly very general, and a considerable increase in the number of household flocks. Even though the actual production in each case is small, in the aggregate it is considerable, and may be enormously increased. Household flocks of fowls are highly profitable in that the cost of feeding is relatively low as scraps, etc., which would otherwise be wasted are utilised. The human food thus obtained is consumed when in the best condition, and nutritive values are at the maximum. Wherever space is sufficient in garden or compound, the fullest encouragement should be given to promotion of this branch, both as a source of food supply, and as an economic proposition.

(2) As supplemental and in association with farming.—A conservative estimate is that 90 per cent. of eggs and poultry produced in Great Britain are derived from farms, and in Ireland, Denmark, etc., the proportion is upwards of 95 per cent., and in America the average is about the same as Britain. These observations apply to eggs and ordinary chickens. Of high grade table chickens, geese and turkeys, practically all are raised on farms. Such must consider to be the chief basis, other than by household flocks. Owing to lower cost of equipment and of feeding, to relatively lessened expense for labour, and to the manurial value of poultry, increased production on farms of the country should be the chief line of development, as costs are at the minimum and profits are at the maximum, even though in many sections the average returns are not proportionately equal to those obtained on special plans. Poultry forming an integral part of farm operations is the line of economy and permanency.

(3) As a specialised business.—Accepting that the duck industry, which is highly intensive, has in the past proved profitable under favourable conditions, it should be supported by every effort for its extension as demand for what is an article of luxury should become more increased. Within recent years, however, development on specialist lines has mainly been in the direction of egg farming, in which great progress can be recorded. It would appear to be evident that under proper conditions and management this is a field capable of considerable and profitable development.

During the winter months the percentage of relative egg production is much higher upon egg farms than upon general farms, though that need not necessarily be so. The districts which in accordance with present experience are most suited to egg farming are those situated within easy reach of great consuming centres, as their produce can be marketed readily and rapidly, and maximum prices be obtained, whilst the expenses of marketing are lower than when greater distances have to be traversed. Immediate development, however, of this branch cannot be anticipated due to the scarcity of proficient poultry keepers, and also the price of feed, the greater part of which is usually purchased. As these conditions improve extension should be promoted, keeping in view (1) the advantage of what may be termed colonies of poultry farms, (2) an increased combination of crop cultivation with poultry to prevent contamination of the soil,

SHOW CONDITIONS AND PREPARATION.

What has to be done, and when.

By C. A. House.

One often hears it said that the reason why some men do not succeed in their business, or in their hobbies is that they live only for the moment. They do not look ahead. These men certainly are to be found among the failures in the Poultry Industry. If one is thinking of showing a few birds it is useless expecting to win any honours in the show pen if the conditioning and preparation is left till the show season comes round.

If one were asked to state in what way prizes are most frequently lost one would have to say because the birds are not properly trained. Many a bird does one see excellent in type, lovely in colour, and splendid in its marking go down before another much its inferior because of pen shyness. When the judge approaches the bird will do anything and everything it can not to show itself. It will bury its head in a far corner. It will present its tail instead of its head to the judge. It will make frantic efforts to escape should the judge have occasion to open the pen door to take it out.

The bird that is trained for the show pen behaves like a gentleman. He is perfectly tame, and will come to the pen front as soon as he sees the judging stick, and will quitely turn round at the desire of the judge. He will keep his head up, look the judge in the face, stand close to the front of the pen as much as to say, "I am the best bird; give me the prize."

The tame bird which stands in a natural position and does all that the judge wants him to do has a great advantage over the wild nervous bird that will not stand still so as to give the judge a chance to view his good points. Many prizes are lost and won by lack of training in the one case, and by careful educational work in the other. Nervy birds are of little use in the show pen. A good show bird must be steady.

Steadiness is a property that is inherited quite as much as are such properties which are known as standard points. Therefore the man who would win prizes should seek to breed this property into his stud. Birds that are quiet and docile as a rule produce chickens that inherit these qualities. Therefore one might say that training for the show pen really begins in the actual mating of the parent birds.

Tameness in a flock is a thing that may be cultivated, even as it can be destroyed. The man who is always in a hurry when attending to his birds seldom has good show birds. His hurrying and scurrying about the pen infects the birds, and they become wild and restless. The man who would have good show birds must be quiet in his movements when among his flock.

BEGIN WHEN YOUNG.

The actual training of individual show birds should commence whilst they are quite baby chickens. The owner should stand quitely about in the run among his birds. He should seek to possess their confidence. He should not only move quietly among them, but also quietly to them. He should drop little tit-bits of food about his feet, encourage them to look for his coming, feed them from his hand, and not attempt to catch them. Let them learn to approach and allow themselves to be stroked and picked up quietly. Then when they are older and have to go into the training pen they

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(*Continued from previous page*).

and to secure greater production of feed, (3) range for breeding stock and growing chickens, and (4) maintenance of constitutional vigour by discrimination between breeding and laying stock. The subject of specialised poultry farms demands careful investigation and enquiry.

(4) *Breeding Farms.*—As the poultry industry extends the opportunities and need for breeding farms become more imperative. Therefore these should be encouraged both for home and export trade. This branch has proved abundantly profitable in the past, and may be expected to so continue. How far the supplying of stock should be left to private enterprise, and what share publicly supported institutions may contribute, involves a question of policy demanding careful consideration.

THE ALL-INDIA POULTRY EXHIBITION.

The All India Poultry Show will be held this year under the auspices of the Bombay Presidency Poultry Association in Poona between the 11th and 14th December 1930.

The Bombay Presidency Poultry Association have been holding Shows every year since 1926 These Shows have been a success from all points of view. The Poultry industry is new to the Presidency, and therefore there is great scope for breeders to make known to this part of India the types of poultry they breed. There are signs which point to good business for breeders. At a Show held in Ahmedabad in the year 1928, every bird shown, which the breeder wished to sell changed hands, and it is believed that twice the number could have been sold.

We are now appealing for funds, and the more support we can get the more better the prizes.

We can assure all would--be exhibitors that every facility will be given to enable them to show their birds to advantage at a small cost as possible. We shall take every care of birds arriving unaccompanies. The Schedules will be sent out as early as possible to all those who usually patronize the All India. It is requested however that those desirous of exhibiting, send in their names and addresses to the undersigned.

EDW. J. BRUEN.
College of Agriculture,
Poona, 5.

(Continued from previous page).

will have no fear and will begin to show themselves straight away. Knowing their master's voice they will come to the pen front and ask for the dainties they have had in the run.

At first it may be they will be a trifle pen shy. If so, do not worry them. Let them settle down, let them have time to be a bit hungry or thirsty, then give them food and drink and talk quietly and soothingly to them, and they will soon look for your approach as they did in the run.

In a little while they will come to the front of the pen and feed from the hand. Then open the pen door and stroke them. After a day or two you can let them see a judging stick. At first they may be a bit scared, but if you talk quietly to them and give them a bit meat or a few grains of corn or hemp seed their fear will go, and you will be able to run the stick over their backs and teach them how to stand.

Teach them to come to the pen front and hold themselves by giving them a bit of green food or meat from your fingers, which should be held well up above the door of the pen. A few days of such training and they soon know what is required and will become steady and stand just as you wish them to. This training will win many a prize that might otherwise be lost. A judge has no time to waste in getting a wild nervous bird to pose, and one which comes to the pen front and poses as the judge looks at him is certain of receiving all that he is worth. Good home training pays well for the time and trouble devoted to it.

SHOWING THAT PROMISING CHICK.

At this time of the year, when one is thinking of showing a promising chicken, some thought must be given to the conditioning. It is no use showing a bird that is rough in feather and thin in flesh, as many growing chickens are. One often sees in reports remarks like this: "Good, but raw"; "nice, but a bit rough." Such remarks indicate that what the bird lacked was not breed quality, but show condition. Show condition means a body well covered with flesh, and nice, smooth, compact plumage. To secure this means giving attention to the feeding for a week or so prior to the show. A show bird must not be a fat, and it most certainly should not be thin. A week in a show pen, with generous feeding, will improve a raw chicken very considerably.

If it is possible, a little milk given every day, or the mash mixed with milk, will not only improve the body condition, but it will also add to the beauty of the plumage and take away that raw rough appearance which is characteristic of growing chickens. One point that should be remembered is never to show a chicken until its plumage is in nice condition. To show a young bird with its feathers only half-grown may do it much harm, so see to it that the plumage has got to such a stage when it lies fairly close and compact, and not in raw, half-finished state.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

(By Geo. Howard, Sperrin Poultry Farm, Langley, Hitchin, England).

A New Sex Linked Breed.—Sex linked crosses whereby the sex of the chicks is discernible at birth have become popular during recennt years, solely because those who have but little space for rearing chickens can devote that space to the rearing of pullet chicks alone, and not be troubled with the unwanted cockerels. That the demand has been great is apparent from the number of breeders who now mate up sex linked pens for the sale of day old pullet chicks. Sex linked crosses have at no time appealed to us, for various reasons, many of which have from time to time appeared in the pages of the I.P.G., the most important of which we consider to be the sale of this sex linked stuff as pure breds by the unscrupulous and by the ignorant who in some cases really think they are selling pure bred stock because they resemble one of the parents. Other reasons are, these sex linked pullets have yet to prove that they are better layers or even better table birds than the pure breds, while that extra stamina which the cross is supposed to give is as often as not altogether missing. But until this year no pure bred fowl existed the progeny of which could be sexed at birth. Now Professor Punnett has produced a new breed, which he calls by the name of "Cambars," whose progeny can be sexed at birth. Beyond this, the new breed appears to have no particular merits, and Professor Punnett has pointed out that it will be necessary for poultry keepers to complete the next stage and develope the utility, and shall we add "fancy," properties of the breed.

Odd Remarks.—A few weeks ago a visitor called at about the time we were starting to attend to our brooder, hover and incubator lamps. We invited him to go round with us; he had visited the farm several times during the last two years and knew the place pretty well but previously we had just walked round with him, but on this occasion we could not spare the time. After attending to the incubator lamps he accompanied us to all the brooder houses, foster mothers, etc., and on finishing up he commented upon the fact that we had gone round pretty quickly, considering the number of lamps that had to be attended to, and he then added, "You know, Mr. Howard, after watching you for the last half an hour and on my previous visits, and comparing the appearance of your stock with that of several other poultry farms I have visited of late and various methods adopted by them, I have come to the conclusion that many poultry keepers worry far too much about their stock, methods of feeding, and other incidentals connected with the rearing of poultry." We asked him what he meant, and he went on to say that whenever he visited our place he particularly noticed that we seemed to cut out all fussy and worrying details, adopted simple and straighforward methods of brooding, housing, feeding, and cleaning, and that he had not seen any stock look so well as ours did, not merely just then, in the Spring, but at any time of the year. Well, these simple methods are what we have preached and adopted for the last fifteen years or more and although we are constantly experimenting in some form or the other we do not get far away from such methods. When in India we took every possible opportunity of visiting the yards of other poultry fanciers, and on several occasions, we suggested that certain complicated methods of housing, feeding, watering, brooding, etc., be cut out and assured our friends that the stock would not suffer by doing this and that their own enthusiasm for poultry keeping would last all the longer. On looking through the list of Club Members in the recently issued Year Book I notice the absence of several names of fanciers whom, ten years ago, were among our keenest members, and whom thought nothing too good for their feathered friends. This is all well and good but this enthusiasm can be and often is carried too far; fanciers become slaves to their poultry, and after a short while enthusiasm wanes, it becomes much too tiring a job, the poultry is left entirely to the sweeper and eventually discarded altogether. We know of many such cases in India. You can look after and rear your chicks without becoming their slaves, and rear them as well as those who are always fussing about the runs, altering this and that, imagining that this chick is sickly annd trying to doctor it up in case it is sick. Use common sense, just ordinary cleanliness, give both chicks and adult fowls as

natural a life as possible, and watch them do you proud. Above all, never become their slaves and thus make it a drudgery. Try and strike the happy medium in all things. For instance, in one evening I visited in Delhi two fanciers both of whom were real keen. One had cleanliness on the brain. His houses were spotless and also the runs. Not a sign of rubbish, dust, or fowl droppings about the runs; the sweeper had to sweep them several times a day. His poultry looked miserable, standing about moping, and nothing to do. I suggested that he should have a load or two of rubbish, leaves, etc., dumped into the run. After a long talk he decided to try it. Two weeks later he had a much happier looking lot of birds and many more eggs. The other fancier went to the other extreme. The fowl houses had not been cleaned for days; red mite and ticks were plentiful, and it was obvious that he considered any old house and any old run good enough so long as the poultry had good food and water. The two extremes.

In a Lighter Vein.—Our farm is on the main London to Bedford road and we dispose of all our eggs to passers by. Many ask to be allowed to look at the chicks and their remarks at times are amusing. For example, to-day a lady volunteered the information that her friend has a large poultry farm and gets all her chicks from a refrigerator, a big thing with drawers that pulled out. Another visitor told us that his friend dreams of his incubators and lamps and often wakes up in the middle of the night and goes out to see if the lamp has exploded. Another dear old lady asked whether the Foster Mother was really looking after the chicks and how did it know when the chicks wanted feeding. Another said that there must be somthing wrong with our chicks as it most certainly was going to rain and our chicks were not peeping. On asking what she meant we were told that when chicks went about peeping it was a sure sign of rain! We suggested that it was a surer sign of hunger or vermin. And, on an average of at least once a week, we are told that the sex problem is solved by setting long eggs if we want cockerels and round eggs if we want pullets, or it is the other way about?

OLD HENS.

(By "Wayfarer")

A twenty year old hen has laid and hatched a brood of fourteen chickens at Heppershall, Beds and this when all poultry authorities say the domestic hen is too old at three. This a news para from *Tit Bits* of last year. There are exceptions to every rule and this is one of them and very much so. Any unlearned seeing this sort of para might well think that about ten years was about the right age to keep laying hens and for that period they would do their duty well by him. If any one could produce a strain of hens of that same calibre great would be the rejoicing of among the owners thereof for they would be set up for years and years with no need to bother about setting hens, coops, extra feed and the thousand pitfalls and expenses that beset the rearer of young chickens and they could walk around their fowl houses and like the porter in the Arabian Nights exclaim "Oh happy day, Oh day of good luck."

Unfortunately for us nature has ordered things quite otherwise and the years of the laying hen are but few in the land. It's a vast mistake to keep old hens and expect that they will prove a paying proposition for they will not, nature rules that every now and then to confound the over-wise she makes an exception to her ordinary rule and many seize upon the exception and quote it as though it were the rule. If the old hen stood modestly in the back ground and gave youth a chance in the run it would not be so bad, but this is just what the old hen refuses to do and being hardened by age and made cunning by experience she is first on hand at feeding time ready and able to grab the best of the food and not content with that is equally ready and willing to maul her younger and gentler sisters and to drive them away from their food, from the better sunlet or shaded places of the run and from the nest boxes.

There is no dog in the manger like the old hen for though she cannot lay herself she will not allow others to perform amongst a gang of old hens their younger sister have a bad time of it, being pecked and bedivelled everywhere they go and un-

(See on next page).

United Provinces Poultry Farm, Lucknow.

Our many clients will share with the Association the pride they have in announcing that at the recent All-India Show, out of eighteen exhibits entered all won awards with the exception of one pullet.

We also carried off the supreme trophy of the Viceroy's Cup with an utility exhibit "Black Australorp Cockerel" who also won four other challenge cups.

Our other wins were in R. I. Reds with a pullet bred from our Prince of Wales's Strain and the best Breeding trio challenge cup fell to our R. I. Reds.

Our Light Sussex won highest honours including challenge cup and both White and Brown eggs from the Farm went up top.

We have some attractive offers in breeding pens to sell next month, the pens that have bred the above good stock.

Chickens and eggs are now on sale also. Send for our full price list.

Apply Secretary,—

8. **U. P. P. A. LUCKNOW.**

ASIL AND RHODE ISLAND RED CROSS.

By Nur-ul-Islam, Asil Club.

If one requires good table fowls he cannot do better than to mate an Asil cock to a Rhode Island Red hen.

I have several times bred these crosses and agree with the gentleman who visited Mrs. Ouseley, as she says in the March gazette.

That the feathering is a deep chocolate colour in this cross is true. But I believe the breeder referred to by Mrs. Ouseley seems to have always used Black Red Asils and not Javas (Duckwing). I presume he only used Black Reds because they are considered to be the best.

The Asil lays mostly a deep brown egg and so does the Rhode Island Red. The natural outcome of this coincidence of qualities is an increase in the brown colour of the egg.

It is well known in almost every country that the Asil is unsurpassed in the world in table qualities.

The Rhode Island Red has been admitted by all as a good table breed and it is, therefore, evident that cross between the two will be excellent for table.

The fighting quality cannot be toned down because the Rhode Island Red itself has a little game blood in it, and consequently, when crossed with the Asil—the breed kept for fighting purposes for centuries, it is bound to develop, to a very large extent, fighting propensities more than anything else, and can be nothing but a fighting bird.

Another thing the breeder, referred to by Mrs. Ouseley, has not mentioned is the awfully ugly appearance of the cocks of the resulting breed.

I, therefore, wish to state that I agree with the gentleman in question in what he says about the Asil and Rhode Island Red cross.

CURRENT EVENTS IN ENGLAND.

(By Geo. Howard, "Sperrin" Poultry Farm, Langley, Hitchin, England).

World's Poultry Congress.—It is understood that practically all available space for livestock and trade exhibits has now been taken up, but while the more popular breeds and varieties of poultry will be well represented the lesser known and older breeds will, to a great extent, be conspicuous by their absence.

B. W. D.—The controversy on this matter still rages but little real progress appears to have been made. Mr. Rodwell still sticks to his guns, and his views have received much support from some influential breeders. It is, however, apparent that the controvery will now fizzle out without any real benefit to the poultry industry.

Egg Prices.—The price of English eggs is remaining low this year for a much longer period (*See on next page*).

(*Continued from previous page*).

able to get their fair share of food, comfort to move about, and peace to lay, they soon fall off and become like their elder sisters a burden to their owner.

Why, the expression *Henpecked* is derived from this very thing, for their ceaseless tormenting without rhyme, or reason, reduces younger hens to destruction mentally and physically. Young hens mixed with old hens soon deteriorate into the fourth class never mind how bright their prospects originally were for nothing can stand the hunting and beating they have to put up with and worst of it is that when once cowed they never again recover their spirits and even when the old hens are removed are just as timid and frightened of one another as they were of their ancient adversories.

Their nervous systems are ruined and though one would hardly think it unless a hens' nervous system is in good order all her bodily functions are disarranged and she is that curse to the poultry man—a hen that looks alright but just will not lay. It's a useless but too common a practice to keep hens beyond their laying period for not only are they themselves useless but they are a source of uselesaness in others.

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12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

In reply to your appeal asking for opinions on Mr. Howard's latter which appeared in the Gazette for May, I have taken the libery to just say a few words on the subject.

Now, as regards Mr. Howard's remarks re: Government-owned birds, this subject has come up for settlement several times. At one time it was agreed that such owned birds would be allowed to compete but in the event of their winning any of the cups, the said cups would not be awarded to them, but to the runner up. This rule has apparently been cancelled or forgotten as at the last All India show held at Lucknow in January, this rule was not observed.

Mr. Howard did exhibit birds owned by him at Calcutta and as he happens to be a life member of the Indian Poultry Club is justly entitled to enter his birds in all our shows the same as if he were resident in India, to win, if possible, and to receive the same, and so should the same privilege be extended to all if the birds had been imported by them, which is no more than is being done yearly by many exhibitors in India.

Now let us take the Government owned birds. They are not the property of any one or more individuals "who may be in partnership" but of the Government, who should not be eligible to win any of the cups, as the birds are actually the property of the public of that province.

Then there are the Mission Poultry Farms. These too should come under the same heading and not the same as individual or joint owners. Anyway, I would say that Government and Mission owned birds should be treated alike.

I, for one, have never been against imported and bred in the country birds being judged in the same class, as in my opinion as I have often found it such when judging, that the country bred is just as good as the imported.

Let all breeders try and beat the imported ones by judicious and careful mating and thereby gain laurels for themselves and their birds; for what some fanciers have done, others can do the same if they only try.

I do hope that no one will take any offence at these remarks of mine as I have not written them to hurt anyones feelings or to give offence, but have only voiced my poor opinion as asked by you in the June Gazette, but I agree that All birds should compete for "Best bird in the Show."

I had a very strange occurance a few days ago and mention it to see if any one has ever known of the same, as I have never known of the same before.

(*Continued from previous page*).

than last. National Mark standards are still (11th June) realising round about 12*s*. per 120.

Table Chicken Prices.—The wholesale prices of table chicken have ruled much lower this year than for some years. Best surrey chickens are quoted at from 1*s*. 4*d*. to 2*s*. per lb., with ordinary country chicken at from 1*s*. to 6*d*. per lb. So far little has been heard of the proposal to apply the National Mark to table poultry.

National Mark and Eggs.—There are signs of wholesalers and retailers in some districts trying to avoid the National Mark eggs, and to give preference to ungraded English and Foreign eggs. In other words, an attempt to boycott the scheme.

Death of Lord Dewar.—By the death of Lord Dewar the poultry fancy losses one of its most respected and well known fanciers. His stud of poultry at Homestall in Sussex was known the world over. It has now been notified that the stud is not for the present being broken up but is being retained by Lord Dewar's heir.

Sir Edward Brown, L.L.D., F.L.S.—In the recent King's Birthday Honours List appeared the name of Mr. Edward Brown, Secretary to the National Poultry Council, who received a kingthood. Sir Edward Brown is probably the best known man in the poultry world to-day, or rather has been for many years, and all poultry keepers will join in congratula-a...; to him on the honour conferred upon him by ...jesty the King.

MISSION POULTRY FARM,

ETAH. U. P.

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ALL-INDIA POULTRY EXHIBITION, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 1930.

5 Challenge Cups, 7 Firsts, 4 Seconds, 2 Thirds, 1 V. H. C., 2 Reserve. Including I P. C. Challenge Cup for BEST R. I. RED COCKEREL and Galstaun Challenge Cup for BEST LEGHORN.

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R. I. REDS. EX-UTILITY	**Rs. 30/-** per Dozen.
R. I. REDS UTILITY	**Rs. 18/-** per Dozen.
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A. E. SLATER, ***Manager.***

I had a cross-bred Minorca hen which I bought locally and as she appeared a poor layer I had her killed for dinner. What was my surprise when the cook told me that he had found a dead chicken in her abdomen together with several eggs. I could not believe it, so told him to bring me the intestines to see for myself, and there, if you please, was the young chicken; head, body and short legs, but it was dead. This is the first time I have known of incubation taking place in the mother birds' stomach.

Yours in the Fancy,

F. T. BECK.

Sir,

Mr. Wiggal's reply to Mr. Howard's letter concerning the matter of the Home breeder's bird being opposed to the Indian breeder's and giving the latter a poor chance is common sense and it has led me to write this knowing full well I am going to be unpopular with one gentleman at least but I trust these lines be taken in the light they are meant.

I am going to refer to the competing of the average fancier with his few birds against such institutions as the Etah Mission Farm. Mr. Slater does not conceal the fact that he gets the pick of the American poultry world sent to him almost free and from these birds he yearly raises stock that the poor amateur cannot hope to compete against.

While I would be the last to start anything rolling that would debar us from the pleasure of seeing Mr. Slater's birds penned at our yearly shows cannot the Indian Poultry Club come to some definite settlement whereby the competition is evened up more?

What about our closed cups and for that matter the open ones being re-shuffled and made more for the amateur poultry breeder than as they now stand and yearly the poor amateur has to stand by and see them again carted off to the same few winners for the simple reason that he cannot afford to put out Rs. 5,000/- for birds that these institutions get given to them free gratis and for nothing ?.

A. O. FODEN.

Sir,

I happened to be in Dehra Dun in the first week of April, to judge all classes at the Dehra District Poultry Show, of which a short account has been given by Mrs. Ouseley in the May gazette, and therefore, thought it my duty to look up our Committee Member for these provinces.

I am grateful to Mr. E. Bradford Ouseley for so kindly taking me round his farm, and I was sorry not to have been able, through lack of time, to see the whole show so nicely organised by our such keen poultry enthusiasts as Mr. and Mrs. Ouseley.

Before mentioning anything about the farm I must say that the way broodies are kept there and natural incubation carried out struck me most. There were half broken earthen pitchers, in order to make them convenient for the broody hen to sit. It was the lower portion of the pitcher (Ghura as it is commonly called by us) that was being used as a nest. The hollow at the bottom of the Ghura made an excellent nest for the hen. The Ghura was put on three (in a triangular manner,) bricks and, therefore, there was absolutely no fear of its shaking by the movements of the hen. These were in the bathroom and the room adjoining it, so that the fowls could have a bath at the same time as Mrs. Ouseley.

I liked this method of incubation best of all. I consider it the best and most economical natural method of incubation.

This is indeed a very good demonstration for the typical peasant for it is most suitable for a person of his means, environments, and circumstances.

The runs and roosting houses were also very nice indeed and what I liked most in the whole show was that everything was as natural for the fowls as one could make it.

It was really a beautiful place for poultry and I am sure the almost ever-green land was a lovely home for these useful animals where natural conditions induced them to lay better and live in better health than fowls living elsewhere all through the year. This is one reason why fowl disease is unknown to Mrs. Ouseley's farm. She is most fortunate, I think, to be in possession of such land.

Nur-ul-Islam.

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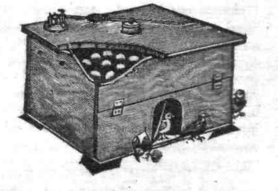

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? ? ?

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Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,
C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".

Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

S. I. Ali. *Rajnandgoan.*—Your letter is too lengthy to answer but I think the soil in your district is against the breed you keep. My advice is do not follow questions 1, 2 or 4. Change your breed. Take up the White Leghorn, purchase only sound stock and stick to one breed. Your present stock being in poor condition I suggest disposing of them and when you get your White Leghorns put them on fresh ground.

G. Ramanujan Esq., *Kottayam. S. I.*—The size of the house is sufficient for 100 birds but I advise you to wire off 200 square yards of land for a run or you will not do well with your birds. The mash is not a suitable one for layers. I suggest, Rice Meal 1 part, Fish Meal 1 part, C. O. Cake ½ part, Gram Meal ½ part, Wheat Bran 3 parts, total 6 parts, by weight to which should be added 1 oz. of powdered charcoal to every 4 lbs. of the mash. Hard grain feed should be, 4 parts Wheat, 2 part Maize, 2 parts Bajra, 2 parts Oats, it would pay you to purchase big grain stocks from your nearest market if you intend to keep a large number of birds. Re: the speciality foodstuffs mentioned we do not make this an advertisement page but they are very good and we suggest you write for particulars giving your requirements and allowing the agent to advise you the best methods and foods, suitable for your needs.

Mr. C. *Madras Pres.*—Wants to know show dates and if birds hatched now would be ready. Our Gazette for June gives you information re: the former and as for the latter light breeds would be just right if reared properly as your breed the pullet is just on the point of laying at 6 months and shows at her best.

Mrs. H. *Berhampur.*—From the symptoms you give your youngsters have got Gape worm. Treatment:—Boil all water and add one dessertspoon Izal to every gallon. Give one teaspoonful pulverised Camphor well mixed into the mash of 50 birds. Repeat every 3rd day (8—10 week birds) alternative:—1 dram Cresote, 4 ozs. Olive oil to every 10 birds mixed well into the mash twice daily. Gape worm is very contageous, picked up from grass and the eggs after being expecterated are very easily picked up by other birds.

Mr. R. *Barpathar.*—Your P. C. to hand, we shall be only too pleased to help to the best of our ability.

Mr. P. *Calcutta.*—I have dealt with the naming of the Cross breed in the Gazette of June by request of our Hon. Editor. You will have your copy by this time.

Mr. T. *Rangmala.*—Wants to know the correct number to a duck breeding pen. 3-4 ducks to every drake is quite sufficient.

Mr. L. *Gurgoan.*—Wants a few tips on egg preserving. The most satisfactory way and the cheapest in India is to mix a solution 4 parts slaked lime to 20 parts water and when disolved add 1 part salt. After standing for 5 days stir well and pour the liquor through a muslin into the container holding the eggs, being careful to allow it to come well over the top of the eggs as evaporation takes place. As the solution evaporates more can be poured in. Keep in a cool place. Not over 60 F.

Mr. J. *Calcutta.*—Five toed poultry is not a rare occurance but such breeds as Dorking, Houdan, Faverolle are all five toed breeds.

Mrs. P. *Jaharia.*—Requires information re-mating up breeding pens of White Leghorns. Your females will be 22 months when you mate up. I suggest you mate to a 10—12 months male as most satisfactory. If you intend to run the 30 females in one pen then you will need 5 males but this is not a good way as there is always fighting among the males and irregular fertility is the result. Better split into 4 pens and allocate one male to each.

Mr. L. *Bankipur.*—Requires a mash formula for 4 months pullets. 1 part Maize Meal, 1 part S. G. O. Meal, 1 part Fish Meal, 2 parts Wheat Bran.

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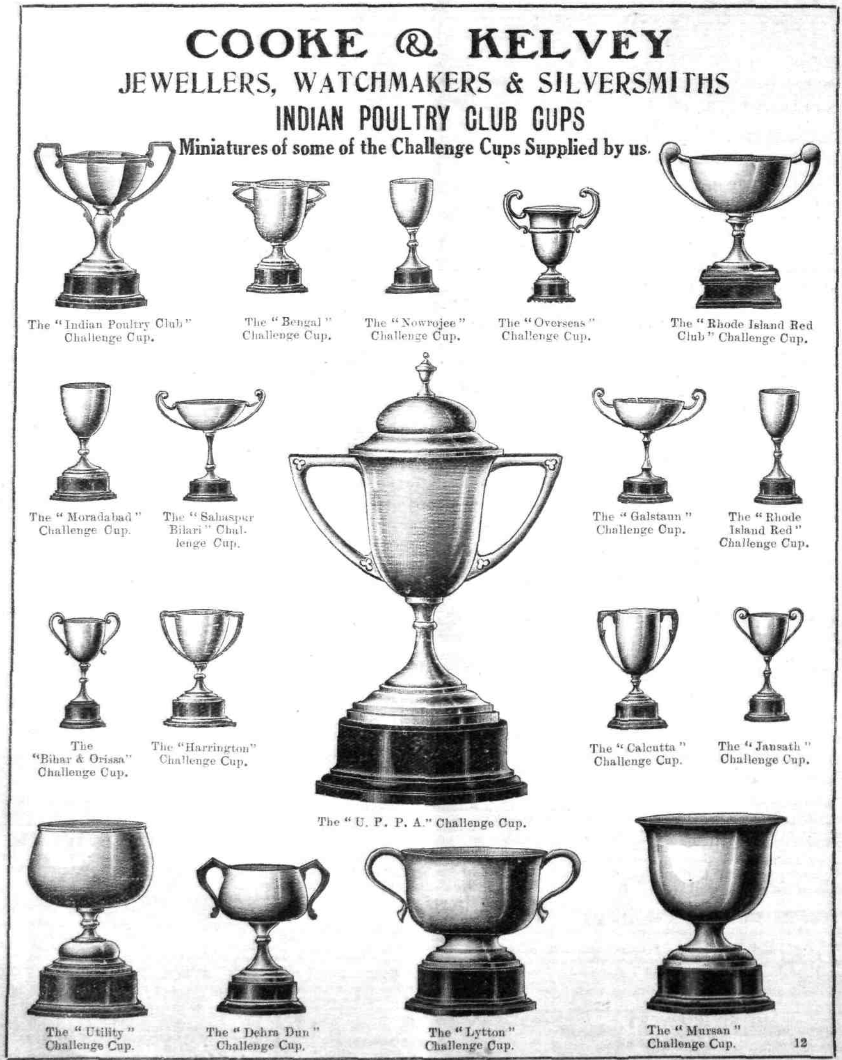
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